Fact Sheet, March 2009

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL

The mission of the Department of Toxic Substances Control is to provide the highest level of safety, and to protect public health and the environment from toxic harm.

State of California

Cal/EPA

You may review and comment on the Proposed Cleanup for the Former Special Devices, Inc. Site in Newhall

March 19 to May 4, 2009

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites you to review and comment on the Draft Corrective Measures Study (CMS) and Proposed Remedy for the Former Special Devices, Incorporated (SDI) Site (the Site). The Site is located within the Angeles National Forest at 16830 West Placerita Canyon Road, approximately one mile west of Sand Canyon Road, in Newhall, California. The approximately 157-acre Site is owned by Placerita Land and Farming Company. Currently, the Site is surrounded by an animal rescue facility and undeveloped private and government-owned land (please see the map on page 5).

DTSC has overseen the investigation of the Site and has approved the Summary Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Facility Investigation Report (Summary RFI). The Summary RFI summarizes all soil, soil-gas, and groundwater investigation results and the geological conditions at the Site. You may review the Draft CMS and Proposed Remedy, and the Summary RFI, at the Newhall Public Library at 22704 West Ninth Street in Newhall, CA 91321. You may also review these documents on the DTSC web site, www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/, by typing in the city as "Newhall" and then, at the bottom, clicking on "Get Report", then click "Report" on the far left, then click on the "Community Involvement" box. After that, click on the desired documents listed there. You may read, review, or download and print any of these reports.

DTSC encourages your participation. The Draft CMS and Proposed Remedy, or cleanup option, are based on information provided in the Summary RFI. The Draft CMS and Proposed Remedy for the Site are available for review and public comment at the locations listed above. DTSC will make a final decision after all public comment has been reviewed, considered, and addressed in the final CMS and Remedy.

Please submit written comments by U.S. Mail postmarked by May 4, 2009; or by e-mail before the deadline date no later than 5 p.m. to:
Ken Payne, Project Manager, DTSC,
8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento CA 95826
E-mail to KPayne@dtsc.ca.gov
Si desea información en español, comuníquese con Jesus Cruz al número gratis 1-(866) 495-5651

History

Operations began at the Site in the late 1950s and ceased in mid-1999. Special Devices Incorporated, Hughes Aircraft, and Inflation Systems International all operated at the Site which included a number of buildings. These buildings have been removed. Because the topography of the Site and surrounding area consists of rugged natural terrain, the buildings were grouped in relatively small operating areas, referred to as "Levels" (due to differing elevations), surrounded by undeveloped natural open areas.

As described in the Summary RFI, the results of the soil-gas investigation show primarily fuel and solvent-type hydrocarbons in a small area on the western portion of Level 2 and primarily solvent-type hydrocarbons in a small area on the northern portion of Level 7. In both cases, the results of a Human Health Risk Assessment show that risks to persons outdoors, such as in a park or natural open-space setting, are below levels of concern. However, the human health risks to persons indoors, in a commercial or residential setting (e.g., if structures were to be built in the impacted areas), could be unacceptable without the construction of special venting systems. Currently, the impacted soil-gas does not present a risk to human health or the environment.

The results of the groundwater investigation show very low levels of a few solvent-type hydrocarbons and their breakdown products in a small area in the middle of Level 2 and low levels of a few solvent-type hydrocarbons in a small area on the northern portion of Level 7. As described in the Summary RFI, the groundwater at the Site has not been used in the past and is not currently being used. Because the amount of groundwater present is limited, and depends on seasonal rainfall, future groundwater use at the Site is unlikely. Currently, the impacted groundwater does not present a short or long-term risk to human health or the environment on or off-site.

Draft CMS and Proposed Remedy Overview

The purpose of the CMS is to identify and evaluate potential cleanup alternatives for the chemicals found in the soil gas and groundwater at Levels 2 and 7. In its current condition, or for use as open space or a park, DTSC recommends that the Site does not require any clean up. DTSC will require additional measures if there are future plans to conduct soil-disturbing activities and/or construct buildings over the soil gas-impacted areas, and/or to extract groundwater from areas where groundwater impact was identified. DTSC has identified and evaluated the following clean up options for soil gas and groundwater at Levels 2 and 7:

Soil Gas	Groundwater
1. No Action / Passive Remediation	1. No Action / Passive Remediation
2. Institutional Controls	2. Institutional Controls
3. Soil Vapor Extraction	3. Air Sparging
4. Bioventing	4. Chemical Oxidation
5. Source Removal	5. Pump and Treat

- No Action/Passive Remediation leaves the Site as it is and allows natural processes to reduce contamination over time.
- Institutional Controls also leave the Site as it is, with a Land Use Covenant (LUC). The LUC is a recorded document that imposes legal restrictions on activities conducted at the Site and/or future use of the land in specific restricted areas where contaminants of concern are present.

- Soil Vapor Extraction is a process in which chemical vapors are extracted from the soil by applying a vacuum to small-diameter vapor extraction wells.
- Air Sparging removes volatile organic chemicals (such as solvents) by forcing a stream of air through the contaminated material. The contaminants are evaporated into the air stream. Usually the contaminants are pulled from the air before the air's release to the atmosphere.
- Bioventing uses naturally-occurring microorganisms to change toxic compounds into non-toxic compounds.
- Chemical Oxidation is a process in which chemicals are pumped into the contaminated groundwater causing the contaminants to break down. When the oxidation is completed, only water and other harmless substances are left behind.
- Source Removal is excavation to remove contaminated rock and soil containing the contaminated material that migrates into the soil gas and/or groundwater.
- Pump and Treat is a method that pumps contaminated groundwater to the surface for treatment.

As described in the Draft CMS and Proposed Remedy, the hardness of the underlying bedrock at both Level 2 and Level 7 prohibit effective clean up of soil gas by Soil Vapor Extraction or Bioventing. The composition of the soil prevents enough of the groundwater to be drawn in for treatment by Air Sparging, Chemical Oxidation, or Pump and Treat. Also, the excavation of soil to remove the contamination is cost-prohibitive and has potential negative impacts on the environment. Please see the table on page 6 for a display of the options.

Conclusions

DTSC recommends the No Action/Passive Remediation option with the use of Institutional Controls for both soil gas and groundwater. DTSC will establish the boundary of the soil gas and groundwater-restricted areas covered by the LUC based upon the Site conditions and the future use of the land and groundwater.

California Environmental Quality Act

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project. The NOE states that the proposed remedy will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment because it will involve land use controls as well as strict control on access to the two small areas of contamination. You may review the NOE at the Newhall Public Library or on the DTSC web site (as detailed on page 1).

What happens next?

Comments can be submitted in writing to Ken Payne at the address below. Written comments must be postmarked on or before May 4, 2009, and comments sent electronically must be received by 5 p.m. on May 4, 2009. After the close of the Public Comment Period, DTSC will review and consider any public comments and make any necessary revisions to the Draft CMS and Proposed Remedy prior to final approval. Also, a Response to Comments document will be mailed to everyone who makes a comment and provides their name and address. If DTSC approves the Proposed Remedy, DTSC will write the final LUC, and it will be recorded with the County of Los Angeles Assessors Office.

Who to contact for more information

If you have questions, please contact:
Nathan Schumacher
DTSC Public Participation Specialist
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Phone toll free at (866) 495-5651; please select option # 1, and then option # 5 or call the direct line: (916) 255-3650
E-Mail: NSchumac@dtsc.ca.gov

Ken Payne
DTSC Project Manager
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
Phone (916) 255-6444
E-Mail: Kpayne@dtsc.ca.gov

For media inquiries, please contact:
Jeanne Garcia
DTSC Public Information Officer
9211 Oakdale Avenue
Chatsworth, CA 91311-6505
Phone (818) 717-6573
E-mail: jgarcia1@dtsc.ca.gov

NOTICE TO THE HEARING IMPAIRED

You may obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Please ask them to contact Mr. Nathan Schumacher at (916) 255-3650, regarding the Former SDI Site investigation.

Mailing List Coupon

If your address is on the envelope, then you are on the mailing list for the Site. If not, you can be added to the mailing list. Please fill out this coupon and send it to Nathan Schumacher, DTSC, 8800 Cal Center Drive, Sacramento, CA 95826.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

DTSC mailing lists are solely for the purpose of keeping persons informed of DTSC activities. Mailing lists are not routinely released to outside parties. However, they are considered public records and, if requested, may be subject to release.

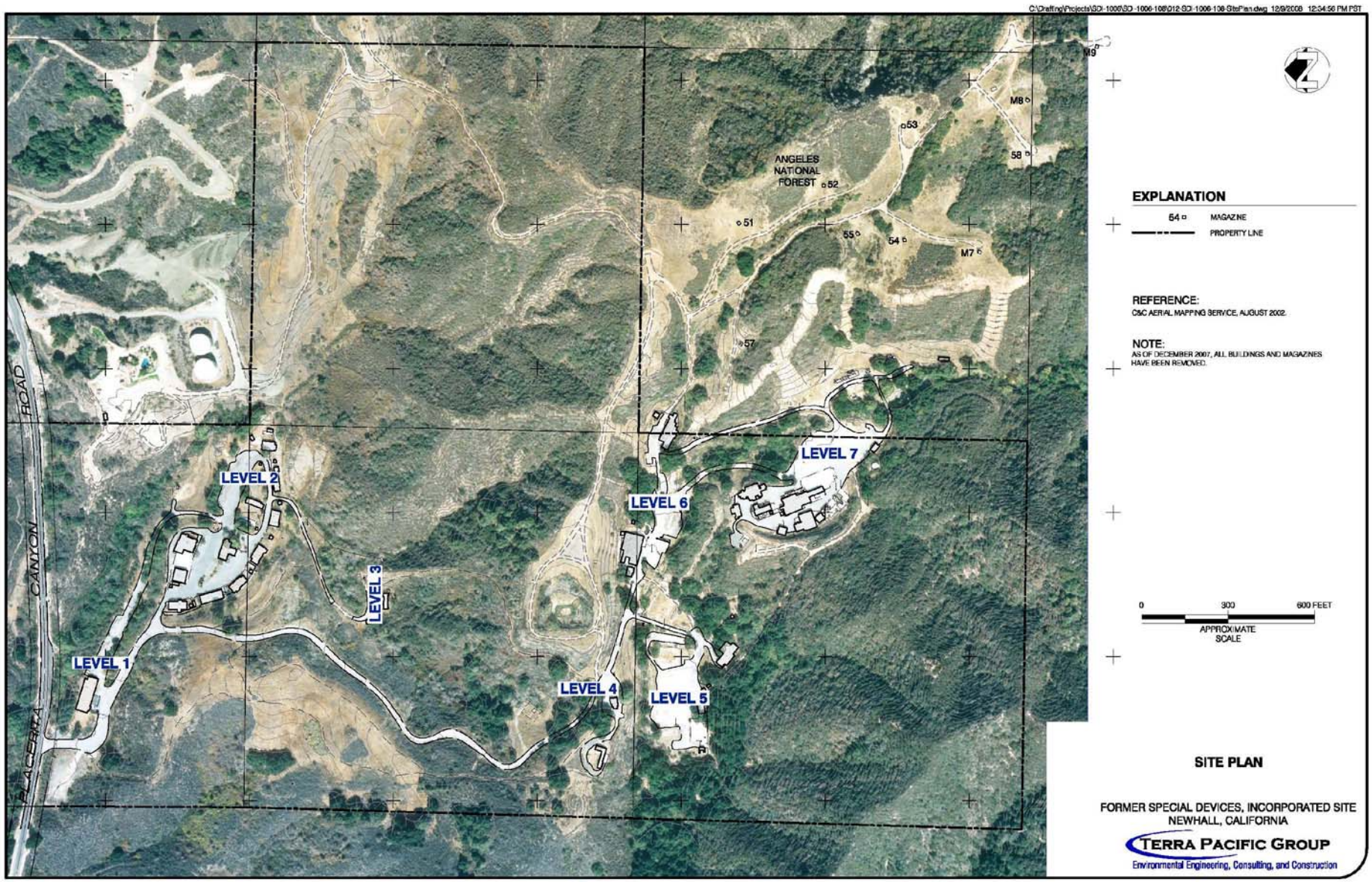
C:\Drafting\Projects\SDI-1006\SDI-1006-108\012-SDI-1006-108-SitePlan.dwg 12/9/2008 12:34:56 PM PST
ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
M9
M8
53
58
52
51
55
54
M7
57
PLACERITA CANYON ROAD
LEVEL 1
LEVEL 2
LEVEL 3
LEVEL 4
LEVEL 5
LEVEL 6
LEVEL 7
EXPLANATION
54 MAGAZINE
PROPERTY LINE
REFERENCE:
C&C AERIAL MAPPING SERVICE, AUGUST 2002.
NOTE:
AS OF DECEMBER 2007, ALL BUILDINGS AND MAGAZINES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.
0
300
600 FEET
APPROXIMATE SCALE
SITE PLAN
FORMER SPECIAL DEVICES, INCORPORATED SITE
NEWHALL, CALIFORNIA
TERRA PACIFIC GROUP
Environmental Engineering, Consulting, and Construction

Table 1
Summary of Cleanup Options for Soil Gas and Groundwater Contamination at Levels 2 and 7
Former SDI Site

Legend

OK for Now...acceptable for current use of the property, but does not protect potential future occupants of buildings, if constructed; does not protect future persons if groundwater is used.
Future…….....can help protect potential future occupants of buildings, if constructed; can protect future persons if groundwater is used.
Stop Sign…...limited effectiveness given subsurface conditions.
$$$.....cost prohibitive based on the volume of soil to be removed and the large environmental impact.

Location of Contaminated Soil Gas	Options Evaluated for Soil Gas Contamination				
	No Action / Passive Remediation	Institutional Controls	Soil Vapor Extraction	Bioventing	Source Removal
Level 2	OK for Now	Future			$$$
Level 7	OK for Now	Future			$$$

Location of Contaminated Groundwater	Options Evaluated for Groundwater Contamination				
	No Action / Passive Remediation	Institutional Controls	Air Sparging	Chemical Oxidation	Pump and Treat
Level 2	OK for Now	Future			
Level 7	OK for Now	Future